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Boozman Bulletin: Bringing our Office to You

Helping Arkansans is one of my most important responsibilities as a Senator. Last year 2,863 Arkansans reached out to our office for assistance with federal agencies. While we can't resolve every issue, we always make sure that Arkansans have an advocate in Congress to help negotiate the bureaucratic maze of the federal government.

My staff works diligently in [seven offices in the state](#), situated to make it convenient to reach us and meet the needs of Arkansans. We are active in the community, attending public meetings and engaging in matters of local importance.

We know that time constraints can make it difficult so we're making it easier to reach our office by bringing it to you. We have several opportunities to reach our staff during our Mobile Office events. This is a great opportunity for you to get help and to speak one-on-one with my staff about questions pertaining to the federal government. My team is looking forward to visiting you and answering questions and helping resolve issues you may be having with federal agencies.

Come and meet with my staff at the following locations:

Wednesday, March 5
Arkansas County Mobile Office
Stuttgart Public Library
2002 S. Buerkle Road
Stuttgart
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Friday, March 7
Calhoun County Mobile Office
Sam Jones Senior Center
1122 Prestress Drive
Hampton

10 a.m. - noon

Wednesday, March 12
Jackson County Mobile Office

The Iron Mountain Depot
501 Front Street
Newport
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Grant County Mobile Office

Sheridan Community Center
1511 S. Rose
Sheridan
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Thursday, March 13
Yell County Mobile Offices

Danville City Hall
1299 East 8th Street
Danville
10:30 a.m. - noon

Dardanelle Community Center
2011 Arkansas 22
Dardanelle
1 -3 p.m.

Monday, March 17

Howard County Mobile Office
Howard County Senior Citizen Center
206 East Howard
Nashville
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Wednesday, March 26
Monroe County Mobile Office

Mid-Delta Health Clinic
245 Madison Street
Clarendon
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

If you aren't able to attend an event in your area I encourage you to contact one of my offices in the state if you need to discuss a problem. We will be happy to send you an authorization form which is the first step in starting on a case, or you can find the form [here](#).

Quick Takes:

- **President's Budget:** President Obama released his long-delayed FY 2015 budget proposal today. His proposal [turns the clock back on the little progress we have made toward reining in Washington's reckless spending](#). It is a step backward that we cannot afford to take.
- **Advanced Funding for Veterans:** I was happy to visit with Arkansas veterans representing Disabled American Veterans who joined [us at a press conference to highlight veterans' funding](#) and support a bill we introduced called *Putting Veterans Funding First Act*. This legislation keeps our promise to veterans and would expand one-year advanced funding for all veterans programs, services and benefits—like we currently do for veterans health care—to ensure that all the services which our veterans have earned, and depend on, will continue should there be future funding issues. Last week *The Wall Street Journal* printed "[A Concrete Way to Honor Military Sacrifices](#)," an opinion piece advocating for passage of this legislation.
- **Urging for improving efficiency and accountability at VA:** [I spoke on the Senate floor about the need to provide our veterans with the care they deserve](#). We're facing a backlog of veterans claims, long waits in the appeals process and programs not fully implemented at the Department of Veterans Affairs. We need to fix these existing programs we are committed to before expanding programs and increasing the responsibility of VA.
- **Restoring Military Retiree Cuts:** I supported restoring the misguided military retirement cuts that were included in the Bipartisan Budget Act. Our retired servicemembers were unjustly targeted to bear the burden of irresponsible spending. This vote restored the full COLA for retirees who joined prior to January 1, 2014, but upholding our promise for all those who enrolled prior to the initial cut is an important step in the right direction. [Watch the speech I gave in support of this vote](#).
- **Preventing Internal Revenue Service Targeting:** We joined efforts to preserve the First Amendment rights of all groups and [prevent the IRS from targeting](#) social welfare organizations. [The House passed similar legislation last week](#).
- **Judicial Confirmation:** [The Senate confirmed Judge James "Jay" Maxwell Moody, Jr.](#) to serve as United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. His nomination was confirmed by a vote of 95-4.
- **Corps of Engineers Bill Reinvests in Arkansas:** We [introduced legislation that restores previous best practices of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#), and uses

the fees for operation, maintenance, and management at the recreation site where collected. We're proud that the Arkansas delegation is leading the charge to reinvest in these recreational facilities in our state.

- **Conway Airport:** We're working with members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation to [continue moving the Conway Municipal Airport forward](#) and help the city improve its infrastructure and economic potential.
- **Saline County FEMA Funds:** Funds to help clean up Saline County after the Christmas Day storm in 2012 were delayed. We [worked with county officials to move the process forward and secure the \\$1.1 million](#) for reimbursement to the county.
- **Propane Shortage:** We've [heard from a lot of Arkansans who are paying higher prices for propane as a result of the shortage](#) and last month I visited one Arkansan farmer who, like so many others, is impacted by the cost. Arkansas is one of more than twenty states that has issued a disaster declaration related to the propane shortage. [We led a bipartisan coalition of senators pushing the Obama administration](#) to provide relief for families, farmers, and businesses suffering from a significant spike in propane prices this winter. I believe that we need to continue and expand flexibility and assistance across agencies. For example, the Department of Transportation can temporarily suspend regulations that drive up the cost of shipping propane.
- **Pastor Abedini:** I have heard from many Arkansans about Pastor Abedini, a dual Iranian-American citizen who has been imprisoned in Iran for over a year in challenging conditions, simply because of his Christian faith. The Iranian foreign minister [recently signaled some potential flexibility in this case](#), and I [joined bipartisan, bicameral efforts to keep this case in public eye](#) to take advantage of these comments with the ultimate goal to bring Pastor Abedini back home.
- **Helping Wounded Warriors:** We've been leading efforts in Congress to improve the care for our injured servicemembers and veterans. In 2012, our initiative to improve rehabilitative services for our nation's veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury was included in a larger bill and signed into law by President Obama. There is still a lot of work to do. [We talked with the filmmakers for a documentary](#) produced by the Wounded Warriors Project about our work in Congress to make sure our veterans are getting the care they need.
- **Young Arkansas Volunteers Recognized:** Congratulations to Rachel Deeds of Fayetteville and Riley Strube of North Little Rock on being named [Arkansas's top two youth volunteers of 2014 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards](#), a national program that recognizes young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism.
- **Friend of U.S. Rice Award:** I was [proud to receive the first ever Friend of the U.S.](#)

[Rice Industry Award](#). As the number one producer of rice in our country, Arkansas has a unique role in the industry. We are proud to promote policies and help craft a Farm Bill that enables our farmers to manage risk and ensures that high quality U.S. rice remains a staple on dining room tables across the globe.

- **Geography Legislator of the Year:** Geography education is a critical component to learning, working and competing in our global economy. National Geographic honored our commitment of to improve geography education and recognized me as us a [Geography Legislator of the Year](#).



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